

The North Branch of the Au Sable River has the longest history of special regulations of any stream in Michigan. The details of all regulation changes are lost in the mists of time. Notable regulation events on the North Branch in the early part of the twentieth century included: 1) Establishment of an 8 inch minimum size limit on all trout species in 1901, 2) Restriction of fishing tackle to artificial flies in 1907, and 3) repeal of the artificial flies regulation in 1913. From 1929-48, all tackle types were permitted on the North Branch. The harvest limit was 15 trout per day and the minimum size limit was 7 inches for all trout species. The history of regulations from 1949 through 2005 is summarized in the table below. During this time many long-term evaluations of fishing regulations were conducted. Both fish populations and angler harvest were monitored. Fish population estimates were conducted for many years in various river reaches between the southern Otsego County line and Kellogg Bridge.

Summary of fishing regulations in effect for the North Branch Au Sable River from 1949 through 2005.

Year	Boundaries	Possession Season	Tackle	Harvest Limit	Minimum Size Limit		
					Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout
1949	Crawford/Otsego Co. Line to Eamon's Landing (6.9 miles)	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	All	15	10	10	10
1950-1954	Crawford/Otsego Co. Line to Eamon's Landing (6.9 miles)	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	Flies Only	10 with no more than 5 BKT or 10 lbs total	10	10	10
1955	Crawford/Otsego Co. Line to Eamon's Landing, & Kellogg Bridge to mouth	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	Flies Only	5 in any combination	10	10	10
1957-1960	Crawford/Otsego Co. Line to Eamon's Landing (6.9 miles)	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	Flies Only	5 in any combination	9	9	9
1957-1960	Dam 2 down to Crawford/Otsego line	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	All	10	7	7	7
1957-1967	Eamon's Landing to river mouth	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	Flies Only	5 in any combination	9	9	9
1961-1963	Dam 2 down to Crawford/Otsego line	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	Flies Only	5 in any combination	9	9	9
1961-1967	Crawford/Otsego Co. Line to Eamon's Landing (6.9 miles)	Last Sat. in Apr. to 2 nd Sunday in September	All	10	7	7	7
1968-1999	Sheep Ranch down to river mouth	Last Sat. in April through October	Flies Only	5 in any combination	10	8	10
2000-2005	Sheep Ranch down to river mouth	Last Sat. in April through Sept. No kill during rest of year	Flies Only	5/3, no more than 3 over 15 inches long	15	10	15